

**M/V Nimrod Explorer**  
***Itinerary 3: Coral Sea, Ribbon Reefs & Cod Hole Expedition***

***Departs Tuesdays from Cairns, disembarks Tuesdays in Cairns***

*8 days/7 nights – up to 28 dives*

***Please note: A similar itinerary may be booked boarding on Saturdays, to visit the same sites in different order. Since two scenic flights to and from Lizard Island are required, an additional fee is involved – contact us for pricing.***

The *Nimrod Explorer* spends much of her time between Cairns and Lizard Island, diving the best sites along the Ribbon Reefs and introducing guests to the world famous Cod Hole, often described as one of the best dive spots on the Great Barrier Reef. This site is known for its resident family of huge potato cod which enjoy protected status in the area, and have made this small section of the reef their home. They range in size from 25 to 60 kg (50 to 120 pounds).

This itinerary also includes two days' diving at the isolated coral atoll, Osprey Reef, located 120 miles off the Queensland coast. Known for its big animals and excellent visibility, Australia's Coral Sea is a pristine area that delivers diving memories lasting a lifetime! An overnight steam from the Ribbon Reefs delivers you to idyllic Osprey Reef, and 2 days at sites such as 'North Horn', with its big shark action, abundant reef inhabitants, and spectacular soft corals often exceeding 2 metres in height. Here you will find dynamic wall diving with sharks, beautiful soft corals and shoals of pelagic fishes

Though we are normally able to do four to five dives daily (including night dives), the remoteness of the area means that weather and tidal considerations sometimes unexpectedly and adversely affect certain sites. The following itinerary is an example only, and can and will change during the course of the trip.

***DAY 1 - TUESDAY***

***CAIRNS TO THE GREAT BARRIER REEF***

- Guests meet at Explorer Ventures office at 206 Draper Street, Cairns, at 3:00 pm
- At approximately 5:30 pm guests are welcomed aboard M/V *Nimrod Explorer*
- An evening meal is served as M/V *Nimrod Explorer* steams out to sea.
- Anchor near our first dive site between 2:00 am and 3:00 am

***DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY***

***RIBBON REEF # 9***

- 4 to 5 dives offered today, including a night or dusk dive
- Orientation dive at Pixie Gardens
- Dive sites such as Lighthouse and Monolith
- Steam overnight to Osprey Reef

***DAY 3 – THURSDAY***

***OSPREY REEF***

- 4 to 5 dives offered today, including night or dusk dives
- Dive sites will be selected according to the conditions on the day and include Raging Horn, North Horn, Castles

***DAY 4 – FRIDAY***

***OSPREY REEF***

- 4 to 5 dives offered today
- Dive sites such as Raging Horn, North Horn, Castles selected according to conditions on the day
- After dinner steam to Lizard Island, approximately 10 hours



**DAY 5 - SATURDAY                      LIZARD ISLAND**

- Guests onboard for the 5 day trip disembark the *M/V Nimrod Explorer* by 8:30 am for transfer to Lizard Island
- Guests staying onboard for the 8 day trip have time to explore the island before a picnic brunch is served with the newly arrived 4 day trip passengers on the beach. Guests are then transferred by tender to the *Nimrod Explorer* anchored off the island
- Introductions and vessel safety briefing.
- *M/V Nimrod Explorer* departs Lizard Island at 12 noon for RR 9
- 3 dives are offered today including a night or dusk dive
- Dive Pixie, Lighthouse, Eagle Rock, Snake Pit and Challenger

**DAY 6 – SUNDAY                      COD HOLE & RIBBON REEFS**

- 4 to 5 dives today, including a dusk or night dive
- Dive Cod Hole, Pixie and Lighthouse
- Steam overnight to RR # 3

**DAY 7 – MONDAY                      RIBBON REEFS**

- 4 to 5 dives offered today.
- Dawn dive at Steve's Bommie, Flare Point, Century Bay, St Crispins or Agincourt
- Depart for Cairns (approx 8hrs)

**DAY 8 – TUESDAY                      CAIRNS**

- Guests disembark the *Nimrod Explorer* by 8.00am for bus transfer to Cairns inner city accommodation